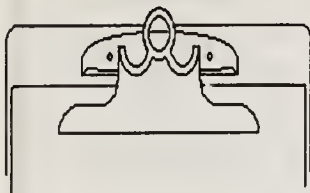


Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana

Editor's

News Notes



- TODAY, Jan. 21:
Big Screen Movie at 9pm
in the Auditorium
("Waterboy"). Sponsored
by SUB.

- Friday, Jan. 22:
Big Screen Movie at 7pm
in the Auditorium
("Waterboy").

- Saturday, Jan. 23:
SUB presents the a
cappella group Blindman's
Bluff" in the Ballroom at
7pm as part of the midwin-
ter social. (Cosponsored by
the office of alumni and
parent relations.)

- Monday, Jan. 25:
Birthday of Fr. William
Stang, C.P.P.S. Senate
meeting at 9pm in the
Courtney Auditorium.

- Wednesday, Jan.
27: MSU meeting at 7pm
in the Courtney Audito-
rium.

- Thursday, Jan. 28:
Feast of Thomas Aquinas.
Columbian Players present
"The Odd Couple" at 8pm
in the Auditorium.

- Friday, Jan. 29-
Saturday, Jan. 30:
Columbian Players present
"The Odd Couple" at 8pm
in the Auditorium.

Patricia (P.K.) Mathew Leaves Saint Joe

by Lisa Phillips

"I think I have an-
other adventure left
in me," Patricia K.

Mathew commented, con-
cerning her decision to accept
a position as Administrative
Assistant to the Executive
Offices of Western Wiscon-
sin Technical College. Mathew has served at SJC as
Administrative Assistant to
the Vice President of Student

Affairs for eight
and a half years,
and decided that
it was time to
move on. West-
ern Wisconsin is
always "striving
to have the new-
est technology"
says Mathew,
who will be
working prima-
rily with the
president of the
college and the
vice president
of planning,
evaluating and research in
order to create an "education
that works." William Manis,
the Vice President of Student
Affairs at SJC, explained,
"It's going to be cutting
edge." He went on to explain
that about sixty percent of the
work in the student affairs
office is repetitive, while
Mathew's new position will
be significantly more excit-
ing.

"I always enjoyed
theater when I was in the city
[before coming to SJC] and I
miss it," said Mathew. She
went on to explain that al-

though Rensselaer is a nice
place and she has enjoyed
her time here, she misses
the opportunities and enter-
tainment that a larger city
offers. She also looks for-
ward to "giving support to
the decision making."

Mathew's position
at SJC consisted of a large
variety of different types of
work. In many cases,
Mathew worked as a liaison

"[I always had] con-
fidence that the value
of the individual was
going to be up held in
every aspect of stu-
dent affairs [as long as
Mathew was in-
volved]" commented
Manis.

between the students and
Manis. This "student con-
tact" was her favorite part
of the job. She also served
as a Title Nine Officer, the
department which deals
with gender issues, specifi-
cally sexual misconduct
complaints, and received
training in that capacity.
One of her greatest accom-
plishments at SJC was rec-
ognizing the "revenue en-
hancement opportunity"
that the empty summer
dorms presented and creat-
ing a summer "conference
center or camp site" for
various community groups,

which brought in
money for the
college and
helped recruit
students.

"[I al-
ways had] confi-
dence that the
value of the indi-
vidual was going
to be upheld in
every aspect of
student affairs
[as long as
Mathew was in-
volved]" com-
mented Manis.

"Students could come in
and not even always know
what they wanted, they
were welcomed just by her
smile and she tried to
smooth out the rough areas
and get things done."

"[Manis is] the best
boss I've ever had in my
life," said Mathew, "he al-
lows you to push your own
potential and work indepen-
dently." Mathew said she

would miss the people she
has worked with for the last
eight and a half years, but
she also had something to
say about the college, "I
came here around the time
SJC was celebrating its
100th anniversary. SJC has
a strong tradition, it's going
to be around for at least 100
more years!"



photo courtesy of Student Affairs Office

P.K. Mathew: former Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Opinion: Students speak out - Rebuttal to *The Observer's* no-pseudonym policy

News: New Alcohol Policy goes into affect, CareerFest '99, Fresh New Face-Stacey Lazenby

Features: New SUB board elected, Cup O' Joe under new management, SJC celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Senate election results

Sports: SJC track team gets underway, Athlete profile-A.J. van Belkum

Stuff: Top ten movies of 1998, Snow Stories

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!!!!!!!!!!

Don't Like It? Move.

by William Shannon

From the sound of things, you would think that it had never happened before. It was all over the news like the latest Clinton escapade but with more panic and frantic action. It seemed as if it hit completely by surprise, leaving a shocked and dismayed populace in its wake.

No, I am not talking about Michael Jordan's retirement...I am talking about the snow storm that happened while we were away. The numbers, doubtless, were astounding (at my house in South Suburban Chicago, I measured twenty-three inches in less than two days). But was all of the unmitigated panic necessary? One must step back and consider some larger issues. Where are we, in a geographic sense? We are (when last I checked) in the Midwest, where (as hard to believe as this may seem) IT SNOWS IN THE WINTER! Did you not grow up here? Was this not mentioned in the travel brochures?

Weather is one of those annoyingly predictable things, and this winter has been no exception. I do not level these charges without an adequate solution. Your problems and complaining about the weather can be cured with one simple action.

If you don't like it, move.

There are plenty of places where the meteorological events of the past few weeks never happen at all. There are places where a temperature of lower than sixty degrees is considered record-breaking. There are places where the only cold, white stuff will be the ice in your pina colada. You will be free from snow and ice, never to strap on boots again. Go ahead, go.

Now that all of those people are gone, I can talk to the crowd that decided to stay. Now, the naysayers might call you nuts for willingly staying in a climate like the one we have here. I, however, think differently.

The weather that we have here in the Midwest puts us through a lot...hot, humid summers and freezing snowy winters. This is not without reason, thankfully. By dealing with bad weather, we are overcoming adversity and triumphing over problems. It is integral to the Midwestern character, this great ability to take on bad conditions fearlessly and not let them get the best of us.

I think that the bad weather helps us to be stronger people, ready to face challenges with courage and bear hardship with fortitude. We are, in part, products of our environment, and weather is a part of that environment. It gives those of us who live through it year in and year out a hardiness and strength that is quite exceptional. It takes a lot of initiative to shovel two feet of snow, clean off the car, drive across icy roads, only to find that the grocery store is closed because no employees could get to work. You deal with the bad situation and get on with your life.

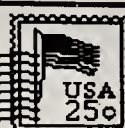
Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.

A Note Regarding The Letter to the Editor:

The letter from the editor that appeared in the last issue did represent the opinion of the entire Observer editing staff. The pseudonym policy and the letter regarding it was unanimously approved by the editors and therefore represented a collective view. Simply because one person actually did the writing does not mean that the letter therefore does not express the opinions of the group.

-Lisa Phillips, Editor-in-Chief

Letters to the Editor



In the last issue of The Observer [December 10, 1998-Ed.] there was a letter from the editor's desk stating the new rule that prevents the use of pseudonyms in The Observer. This rule is aimed at the poetry and short stories that go on the back page. I think that the argument presented from the editor's desk was saturated with flaws. I shall address the 3 main reasons that were given for The Observer's decision not to use aliases.

The first reason states (and you can read along if you have a copy of the last issue) "If it's good enough to be in print then it's good enough to have a real name behind it." I think that "The Editors" are trying to say that if there is no real name behind some piece of work, then it is not good enough to be in print. This means that many of the greatest works ever put into print aren't "good enough" to be in print. This covers such subjects as poetry, science, history, philosophy, art, prose, music and religion (for example: Mark Twain's work, the works of Homer, and The Bible were written with the use of pseudonyms). Of course the letter that I'm arguing against would not be good enough to be in print either, due to the author's use of the pseudonym "The Editors." That's right kids, we've been mislead. I know for a fact that all of the editors did not contribute to this letter in the last issue which was signed "The Editors." How can anyone take this letter from the editor's desk seriously? It's a black and white contradiction!

The second reason given was the most insulting. "The second reason seems obvious; credit." What if I don't want recognition for something I write? I get the credit I deserve by hearing the honest opinions given about my work. I neither need, nor want someone to know that I wrote something that I'm already proud of. How dare "The Editors" decide what we do and don't deserve!

The most ludicrous reason is the last one. It's a combination of unfairness and some other ridiculous reason about validity. Here is the truly mindlessly inarticulate third reason: "It's not fair to allow some to sign their work, take credit and responsibility for it, and not have the same standards for everybody. Also, it has often happened that there are particular poems or stories that we feel really have to have a name with them in order to make them valid..." First of all, why is it unfair!? If one wants to sign their work, then one can. It would be fair if we could have the choice to sign or not to sign our work. This reason just doesn't make any sense, plain and simple. And validity! Only those deficient in the mind would think that in order for something to be valid then it would need the author's real name. I think I've addressed this point enough. This also makes me question "The Editors" own letter.

I'm glad that "The Editors" want me to stand behind my work, get credit, and have a valid argument. However, I can use a pseudonym and still do all these things. Couldn't you? My final message is to the actual editors of The Observer. Since I cannot use a pseudonym, then I will not contribute anything to the back page and I call others to do the same. Please fellow students, back me up. Stop sending in poems and short stories. Let them use the same authors over and over. It's obviously their paper and not ours.

The Poet

Editor-in-Chief
Lisa Phillips

Managing Editor
Rhiannon Davis

Opinion Editor
Will Shannon

News Editor
Maura Giles

Features Editor
Melinda Burdan

Sports Editor
Bree Ma'Aytech

Stuff Editor
Rhiannon Davis

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Sarah Post
Jennifer Price
Lynn Rainey
Polly Rainey
Jamie Riberto
Christine Scafide
Donald Shanahan
Patrick Shannon
Sara Stipher
Ann Zurawski

Photographers
Ann O'Donnell
Charles Martin

Faculty Facilitator
Dr. Charles Kerlin

Macintosh Advisor
Dr. Robert Schenk

Publisher
Dr. Albert Shannon

Letters to the Editor:
Letters to: Lisa Phillips or
Observer mailbox in Core
Building, or 3rd Floor Halleck
Building, or 3rd Floor Halleck
Length: 350-500 words (We
reserve the right to edit for
Length)
Submission Guidelines: Sign &
include telephone number.
Pseudonyms accepted but
discouraged.
*The Editorial Board reserves
the right not to print letters
found to violate applicable
policies*

Stacey Lazenby: Making a Difference in Student Activities

by Sara Post

A new member of the SJC staff moved in over Christmas break, and is taking the Student Union Board by storm. Stacey Lazenby, excited new member of the SJC campus community, has been here only a couple of weeks, and already she has ideas lined up for new and improved SUB

well as working with Leadership Services.

The deciding factor in her coming here, Stacey joked, was the wonderful weather. While she is looking forward to putting her talent and experience to good use, Stacey is also hoping to complete her doctorate at Purdue.

In her free time Stacey likes to see movies, shop, and exercise, but with the long list of duties her new position brings she may be busy for a while. As the new director of student activities Lazenby will be acting head of the Student Union Board and chair all of their subcommittees. She will also advise all committees gearing up special events on advertising, bands,



photo by Lisa Phillips

Stacey Lazenby, new Student Activities Director, already has big plans for SJC.

activities. Lazenby, born in Kuwait, has previously resided in Boston, Atlanta, and Orlando.

In 1996 she graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with her BA in Psychology. In December of last year, Lazenby went on to earn her MA in Student Personnel/Higher Education from the University of Central Florida. Stacey comes to us with a rich background of experience in working with student activities. While at UCF, Lazenby was very busy as a grad assistant for student activities, acting as an academic advisor for student-athletes as

as well as work with all other Student Affairs' divisions to help support campus life.

Lazenby will also help with the publication of the Puma Guide and act as a freshman advisor, along with teaching a section of Freshman Seminar next fall.

Stacey is full of great ideas to get students to participate in SUB events this semester. She wishes to get a resident hall challenge started, where halls compete against each other for points. Prizes and trophies would be awarded to the halls who participate in the most SUB activities. Lazenby feels that there needs to be more involvement in the SUB events, and her plans are geared towards increasing

participation. She would also like more activities to be available in general, especially more road trips. She has already planned a road trip to Indianapolis for SJC students to see "Bring in da noise/Bring in da funk," co-sponsored by the office of multicultural affairs. The trip is scheduled for February 2 and costs only \$10.

Although getting here was a feat for Lazenby, (she got stuck in a snow bank with her U-haul on the drive up), she is pleased with her decision, and is looking forward to meeting all of the students here at SJC.

**Be Sure to Check out
"Bring in da Noise
Bring in da Funk!"**

New Alcohol Policy Goes Into Affect

by Lisa Phillips and Anne LaCure

The controversy originated when the Student Senate approved the new Alcohol Policy last year. Their mission in revising the policy was to lower fines and increase student responsibility. However, by including community service the Senate unknowingly included a \$5.00 charge per hour. The latest revision of the policy does not remove the \$5.00 charge, but if the student schedules the required community service within five days, the \$5.00 per hour charge is waived, thereby encouraging students to make prompt arrangements concerning the hours to be served.

Alcohol Policy

Level One

\$10 Disciplinary Fine

\$25-\$150 Quantity Fine

8 Hours Community Service

(Plus \$40 if service is not scheduled within 5 days)

Level Two

\$25 Disciplinary Fine

\$25-\$150 Quantity Fine

16 Hours Community Service

(Plus \$80 if service is not scheduled within 5 days)

Level Three

\$50 Disciplinary Fine

\$25-\$150 Quantity Fine

32 Hours Community Service

(Plus \$160 if service is not scheduled within 5 days)

Level Four

SUSPENSION

CareerFest 99...

Your Future is NOW!

The 3rd Annual CareerFest will take place on **Friday, March 19, 1999** at Saint Joseph's College. All seniors seeking full-time employment upon graduation and undergraduates interested in internship opportunities should not miss out on this great opportunity to meet prospective employers!

CareerFest is held only once a year and attracts over 35 employers from throughout the Midwest who are looking to hire the brightest and the best college seniors for job opportunities in a variety of career fields. Many of the employers who recruit at CareerFest are Saint Joe alumni wanting to recruit

fellow Pumas for their company or organization. Employers will hold an open recruiting session from 1pm-4pm followed by individual interviews between 4pm-5:30pm in the Core building.

If you are a senior who doesn't have a job yet, or an undergraduate looking for an internship, you can't afford to miss out on CareerFest '99. All students interested in attending must register before the deadline:

TO REGISTER:

Seniors: Drop off a copy of your resume at The Career Center by 4:30pm, **January 29th** and complete the registration form.

Students Seeking Internships: Drop off a copy of your resume at The Career Center by 4:30pm, **February 26th** and complete the registration form.

Registration deadlines are **FINAL** and cannot be extended. Your resume will be printed in the 1999 Saint Joseph's College Resume Book and will be mailed to all employers recruiting at CareerFest '99 in advance.

The Career Center is open Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm and every Tuesday until 7pm.

If you have any questions call Linda or Carrie at The Career Center, ext. 6116.

Four Students Represent SJC at Leadership Conference

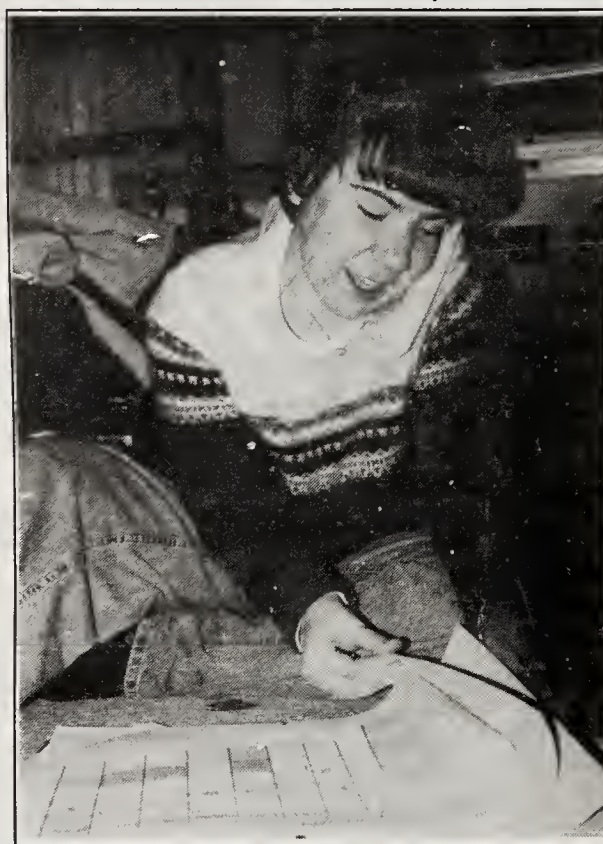
— by Will Shannon —

Saint Joseph's College students Amy Black, Michelle Ottman, Jamie Portal and William Shan non joined seventy-five other Indiana college students to discuss faith, values and their effect on leadership at the 1999 Indiana Student Leadership Forum on Faith and Values. This forum took place on January 15, 16 and 17 at the University Place Hotel on the campus of IUPUI in Indianapolis. On Friday night, the students ate dinner in the House chamber at the State Capitol Building. The speakers for this event included current Indiana Secretary of State Sue Ann Gilroy. After a light dinner, the students returned to the hotel for the first of many small group sessions. Grouped with students from different colleges and with a pair of "facilitators," students were able to share their thoughts on how faith and values should play a role in daily life. The next day, the students were involved in service projects, called "The Labor of Love." The attendees were bussed to various sites throughout the city to participate in community service. The sites included the Indianapolis Children's Museum and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. After a "day of work," students ate dinner at the homes of area families, allowing more time for discussion and sharing. The conference was ended with a "large group" session and a final "small group" session. The overriding theme of the conference was

the question "How can faith and values play a part in leadership and decision-making on a daily basis?" Students, through the activities and discussions, wrangled with that question. There will be no definite answer found in a three-day conference, but it will serve to help continue development and foster growth of an ethical life based on Christian faith and values.

Amy Block check schedules for SUB as a part of her Co-Director responsibilities.

Photo by TJ Szerencse



Block are new secretary Amber Chamberlin and Treasurer Chris Campbell. Taking over the duties of planning and running films is Megan Taylor. Joining Jennie Keneau in the responsibility of Special Events Co-Chair, planning and running events like Mr. Puma and comedians, is Elizabeth Musik. Taking over the responsibility of the Travel Committee is David Banks who will plan the Suitcase Party. Working with all committee members to alert you to the SUB happenings on campus is Advertising Chair Marissa Marlin. Theresa Kreinbrink returns to head the Arts/Bands Committee, as does yours truly, running Little 500.

The new board, while not doing a 180 degree about face, is taking programming for this semester in a slightly different direction. Student participation is the watchword for this semester, and that means more and different types of it. Residence Hall competitions and student "game shows" are all tentatively on the schedule, and

SJC Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

— by Maura Giles —

On Monday, Jan. 18, 1999 MSU sponsored a day of insight into diversity. Students and faculty of all gender and ethnicity were invited to attend a presentation of speakers, a panel discussion, and a prayer service.

The speakers included Susan Smith, Mayor of Rensselaer, Dr. Ed Habrowski, Cynthia Hill, and Marty Costello, the former MSU President. The speakers told of King's history as well as how our actions determine our future.

The speakers were very informative, but it was the panel discussion that brought the most interest. The panel included SJC students Amber Chamberlin and Ali Shabazz, Head of Security Ernest Watson, Prof. Susan Chattin, and SJC Academic Service Coordinator Lori Bolden. The discussion started off with the question "Is the Dream King speaks of a reality in America and on SJC's campus today?" The answers varied, but the general consensus was that people today are "talking the talk and not walking the walk." When the question was proposed to Susan Chattin she replied with a quote from Jose Williams (a former colleague of King): "The dream is as dead as the man."

This was just the beginning of a heated debate. The panel discussion turned into a group discussion which

we do personally to live out the Dream? Will we ever achieve true equality? Are labels separating our American Culture? Are we as a people ever going to be able to set our differences aside and learn to treat others with respect?

No one had all the answers to these questions, but they certainly are food for thought. I highly encourage everyone too think about these questions just for a few minutes. Is the Dream really as dead as the man? What can you do to "walk the walk?"

Senate Elections

President - Lori McKinney
Vice-President - Jill Hrobsky
Treasurer - Phil Schroeder
Secretary - Kelly Dougherty

more is being planned. That leaves the students of SJC with a hefty burden: The entertainment for this semester is now largely in your hands. Are you ready?

NEW BOARD TAKES SUB IN NEW DIRECTION

— by TJ Szerencse —

Amid the hubbub of last semester's finals week, the Student Union Board, affectionately known around campus as SUB, met to decide the fate of entertainment on this campus. Though I don't want to give away the end of this story, yes, there still will be entertainment at SJC. However, it may be a little different from what's been seen in the past.

The primary reason for this change is the election of new SUB executive board members and the influence they will have on programming for the 1999 calendar year. Joining Director Andrea Batista and Co-Director Amy

Seeing the Light at the End of the Tunnel...

A Junior Shares

by Lisa Phillips

Sometimes I reminisce about my freshman and sophomore years, when all I had to do was listed on a class schedule and my weekends were spent relaxing and having movie marathons. All that has changed now. My roommate has forgotten what I look like. My key chain weighs two pounds and I walk down the hall muttering to myself about what I have to do and why.

Of course all this didn't just happen overnight -- and it's not really a product of my junior status, either. It all came upon me gradually. I started accepting more responsibility; first *Phase*, the non-existent yearbook, which I promised myself I would breathe life into, then *Measure*, the literary magazine, whose editors graduated last year, and finally, I was asked to be a department editor for this newspaper, *The Observer*.

Now I'm in charge of all of them, in spite of my complete lack of experience and growing ulcer. You'd think I'd be bitter or annoyed at myself for taking on too much, and for a while, I was. Then midterms came out. I discovered that my grade point average had actually increased. What the heck!?! I was amazed and more than a little confused. Since then, I've watched myself carefully, trying to discover what the difference really was. Eventually, I came to the conclusion that it was my attitude that had changed.

When I first came here, President Shannon gave a speech all about giving something back to the college community. Frankly, I thought he was full of it. I thought there was "us," the people who wandered around confused all the time and just kind of went with the flow, and there was "them," those super-human beings who could do anything if they set their minds to it; the ones who were head cheerleader, valedictorian and head of the debate team in high school. I've discovered something, though. I'm not destined to watch confusedly as other people live life. I can make a difference, without losing myself, or becoming obsessed (although most of my staff would say I'm obsessed with this newspaper). I found out that the people in charge are just like the people not in charge.

I also discovered something else. I like what I do. I'm an English- Creative Writing major and, strangely enough, I like to write. Even more interesting was the discovery that I actually love working on this newspaper. I love finding new and breaking stories, laying out pages, and starting from scratch to create something that didn't exist before. I know I sound like an utter freak, but I get a real sense of satisfac-

"I'm doing what I love and helping people at the same time."

-- Lisa Phillips

tion knowing that I'm helping to inform and entertain the campus. Working with the staff and generating ideas is a lot of fun. I also feel like I'm making a difference. I can affect people's lives in a positive way. That's what raised my grades. The truth is, I was bored when I was a freshman and sophomore; bored and boring. I complained about everything that was wrong with this campus but never took action. I was too afraid to commit and paralyzed by a fear of failure. When I overcame that, I became

CUP O' JOE, NOT JUST A COFFEE HOUSE

by Zachary Pala

If you are in the mood for silent reading nights, live music, card game contests, or art/sketching contests Cup O' Joe just might be the place for you. Add these special events with a menu that offers flavored coffee and tea, and you have the Cup O' Joe Coffee House.

Cup O' Joe is located in the south Chapel basement. Excluding Saturdays, it is open every-day from 6:00pm until 11:00pm. "We are hoping

to have more hours if we can get volunteers to work," said Ann Zurawski, president of Cup O' Joe.

Cup O' Joe is a non-profit establishment, so there is no fee to enter. Plus, the coffee is free. It is funded by both monetary donations, as well as donations of coffee and tea.

Cup O' Joe is currently in a transitional phase. Cup O' Joe's officers are presently working on turning it into a club, and are planning on having monthly meetings. As of now, the Cup O' Joe roster includes Treasurer Allan Moris, Secretary Shawn Delahanty, Vice President James Salvatore, and President Ann Zurawski.

"We will be becoming a club and having monthly meetings. Other than that, we will have the new hours

Her Views on SJC

happier. I'm taking steps to make myself and this campus better. I'm trying to increase organization and communication. I think that's a really positive goal.

So it all comes down to this: either you're standing around waiting for things to happen, or you're out there making them happen. Making things happen is a real ride; the highs are really high and the lows can be devastating. For me, it's great. I'm doing what I love and helping people at the same time. I help the editors and reporters, who want to obtain experience for later in life, and I help the readers, who become more informed about the issues on campus. I face the tough times with the knowledge and the faith that I am making a difference and helping people along the way. I think I'm a better person for doing what I'm doing. I can look toward that ever-looming graduation day (there is a light at the end of the tunnel at this point) with a little less fear and apprehension because I know that I CAN make a difference.

and a lot of fun," stated Zurawski.

If anyone is interested in volunteering their time they should contact Ann Zurawski.

In addition to being managed by the students, they were also involved in the decorating process. Below is a sample of SJC's talent.

Photo by Ann O'Donnell



A. J. VAN BELKUM:

TAKING INITIATIVE ON THE COURT AND IN HIS LIFE

by Jamie Riberto

He plays power forward and center for the Pumas. Aujan van Belkum (otherwise known as A. J.) is just one of the many players on the men's basketball team who has helped to improve the men's record from last year.

Towering over others at his height of 6'7, van Belkum came to the Pumas from Goutum, Holland where the sport of basketball is nothing like it is in the United States.

"Basketball is all club sports oriented. There are a lot of leagues if you want to play. There are leagues for all different levels. Basketball at the pro-level in Holland is not as competitive as the NBA is here" van Belkum stated.

van Belkum is a senior who has been a part of a team that has undergone many changes, the biggest being Coach Balza taking over as head coach this season. van Belkum feels that Balza has had a good impact on the Pumas and the success of their season

thus far.

"Coach Balza has good ideas. He will take the program far because he knows the game of basketball. He is a nice guy on and off the court" van Belkum commented.

van Belkum chose Saint Joseph's College over many other schools that recruited him because he felt that Saint Joe had a good basketball program, and that it would provide him with a good education as well.

"From what I heard, I thought Saint Joe would be a good school, not only for basketball but for education as well. I also liked it that Saint Joe plays in the best conference in division two and it is a small school. I have always gone to small schools" van Belkum remarked.

van Belkum's biggest influences in the sport of basketball has been his mother, his sister and his coaches at home.

"The last coach I had taught me valuable things. My mom played profes-

sional volleyball at home and she has always had a good ideas of sports in general. My sister doesn't know too much about basketball, but a lot

about sports in general as well," van Belkum said.

van Belkum is a very goal oriented student-athlete.

He has high hopes for his future. His goals for the season not only include himself, but his team as well.

"I have a leg injury right now which I would like to get healed up as quickly as possible. I would like to improve on defensive and offensive skills and be a good help to the team in order to win. I want to help the team make a good foundation for next year and have a good record after the last two bad seasons. The team we have now is a good team for an uptempo game but we have some work to do to perfect it" van Belkum expressed.

van Belkum is unsure if he will stay in America upon graduation. His main goal is to go to grad school, but if a

good company was to offer a good job, he would consider staying in the states.

"After Saint Joe, I will probably go to grad school in Hol-

land for kinesiology. I wanted to be a sports doctor but changed my mind because I like computers. I knew it would take too long to become a doctor. I would like to put kinesiology together

with computers and make a simulation program of the human body. It will be tough to do, but it is a goal of mine" van Belkum stated.

College hoops is not the end of van Belkum's successful basketball career. This fine athlete does not intend to retire his jersey. He hopes to continue to play in Holland, and possibly take a chance at professional basketball.

"I will certainly continue playing. I may play some pro in Holland. It is easy to play basketball till you are eighty because it is set up like club sports" van Belkum commented.

What does van Belkum think of possibly the greatest player to have ever play the game retiring late last week?

"Michael Jordan is a very good player. I think it was a good idea for him to retire. He has played for a long time and he is on the top of his game. It is a smart move" van Belkum expressed.

van Belkum is also on the top of his game right now every time he steps on the court as power forward which requires him to play an important role for the Pumas. Coach Balza feels confident knowing that van Belkum is on the court fighting the traffic to retrieve the ball.

"On the court, A.J. has played mostly forward. He has the job of getting the ball in bounds. That may sound simple to the casual observer, but for an uptempo team, that is the most important role and the toughest one. He must fight through traffic, get the ball out of the net and inbounds in a fraction of a second without turning it over," Balza stated.

After watching others play basketball at the early age of six, van Belkum was told he should basketball because he had big hands. "I thought why not, and I went to one of their practices," van Belkum reminisced.

From the young age of six to twenty-three on an athletic scholarship, van Belkum has achieved and conquered his dreams from the beginning, and he hoped to continue playing the game he loves.

By the Way....

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN RA?

RA applications are available in the campus life office beginning January 26.

*Application deadline is Febuary 17
Men's and Women's positions available*

Contact Andrea (6378) or Marcus (6125) with questions

GAMES AHEAD

JANUARY 21

5:30 PM Women's Basketball vs Kentucky Wesleyan University

7:30 PM Women's Basketball vs Kentucky Wesleyan College

JANUARY 23

1:00 PM Women's Basketball vs Bellamine College

3:00 PM Men's Basketball vs Bellamine College

JANUARY 28

5:30 PM Women's Basketball at Quincy University

7:30 PM Men's Basketball at Quincy University

JANUARY 30

1:00 PM Women's Basketball at University of Missouri St. Louis

3:00 PM Men's Basketball at University of Missouri

Good Luck, Pumas!

GETTING ON THE RIGHT TRACK

by Bree Ma'Ayteh

Well folks, it's that time of year again. As students prepared themselves for another semester at St. Joe, the men's indoor/outdoor track team got ready for another season. Their first meet took place at Purdue University on Saturday, January 16.

For those who are on both the cross country and track teams, they only had about three weeks off from cross-country before beginning

some light conditioning for the track season. The rest of the team met up with them in November. To get into

shape, the guys worked on some drills to build up their

speed. St. Joe's track team has been ranked in the top 25 for the past five years in related polls that are released

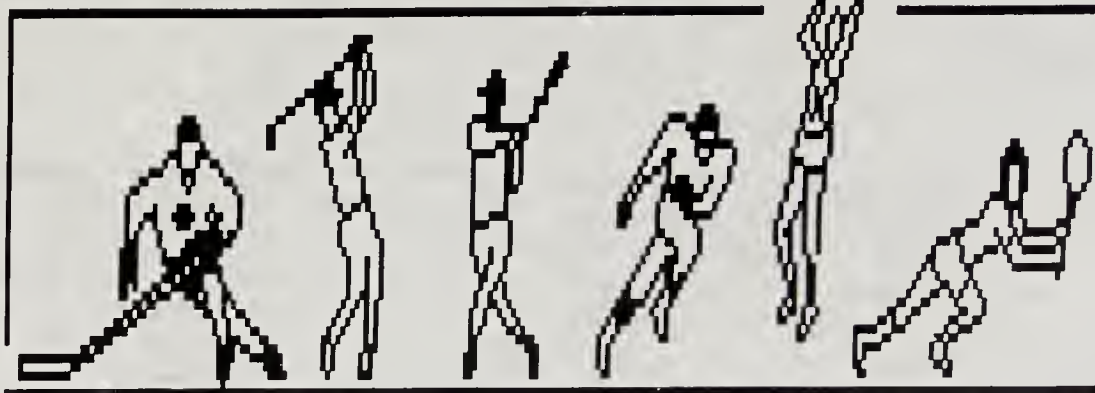
once a week. Outdoor track's highest rank was six.

The team once finished third place in a conference meet at which the team's coach, Bill Massoels, was named men's Coach of the Year. This year, the team

hopes to make it into the top 15, and to compete with (and defeat) as many teams as possible. Some of those returning to the team include

Clark Teuscher, Joe Kozcan, Chris Crum, Jared Weller and Damon Dexter.

I talked to Teuscher, and he has high hopes for a productive season in track. "We've got a really good freshmen team; it looks really good for us as a team this semester," he says.



"It looks really good for us as a team this semester."

--Clark Teuscher

Have a Great Season!

- Hey! You there!
- *Do you like to write?
- *Do you like sports?
- *Are you looking for a fun way to combine the two?
- Look no further! The Observer is in need of sports writers for the second semester! All those interested should contact Breain (Bree) Ma'Ayteh through email, or her extension, #8062.

Falling Into Place

Men's Track top finishers at Purdue this past Saturday:

Josh Hughes: 6th, Long Jump, 20'6 1/2"
 Josh Hughes: 8th, High Jump, 6'2 3/4"
 Greg Myers: 8th, High Jump, 6'2 3/4"
 Greg Myers: 6th, Triple Jump, 39'10 3/4"
 Tim Newman: 4th, Mile, 4:31
 Matt Stout: 8th, 3000 Meter Run, 9:23

Women's Track top finishers at Purdue University this past Friday:

Holly Ann Stefaniak: 10th, 3000 Meter Run, 11:23
 Shana Wyatt: 7th, 5000 Meter Run, 20:17:30
 Sara Depew: 9th, 5000 Meter Run, 21:01:50
 Dana Collins: 10th, 60 Meter High Hurdles, 9.42
 Elizabeth Metzinger: 7th, High Jump, 1.60 meters
 Jill Hrobsky: 6th, Triple Jump, 10.42 meters

*information provided by Joe Danahey

To Score Or Not To Score

Information provided by Joe Danahey

The women's basketball team played and lost against the University of Southern Indiana on Thursday, with a score of 106-93. Angie Hupfer scored the most points with a total of 32, with Tamara "Legz" Bumpers right behind her with a total of 23. They also played at Southern Illinois Edwardsville the following Saturday and lost, scoring 62 points to Edwardsville's 73. Angie Hupfer once again was the leading lady, with 26 points.

The men's basketball team also played against Southern Indiana on Thursday, and lost 99-63. Brent Mason and Brandon Yates both scored 17 points in that game. In Edwardsville on Saturday, SIC lost once again, this time against the Cougars, 89-79. Brent Mason led the team with 23 points. Brandon Yates was next with 16, followed by Greg Taylor's 15.

BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, PUMAS!!

Take This Siskel and Ebert

by Don Shanahan

If you pick up a newspaper every Friday, like I do, to check out what new movies are coming out, you probably noticed a few weeks ago that all those big-wig movie critics in the big cities out there always seem to put together a "ten best list" at the end of each year. If you've ever read on of those lists and said to yourself "Huh!?" because of all the movies you've never heard of, then you feel my pain. I want to, as a down-to-earth critic, give you a ten best list that you can relate to. Well, after thinking it over, I need eleven spots to get in point across here. I have to admit, I have a soft spot for old movie stars, romances, and fancy scenery. You'll see all of those kinds of things I my list below. I still have to try and be a respectable critic, though. If you're stumped by my choices, my honorable mentions might help you out. Believe me it is tough to narrow all the movies I've seen this past year down to ten. I needed eleven. Bear with me. Here goes...

11. Patch Adams- Robin Williams showing the thoughtfulness and heart that got him an Oscar last year while still being a hilarious comic.

10. He got Game- This father-son basketball struggle is incredibly cruel and dark yet shockingly realistic to the slimy world of playground ball. Definitely Spike Lee's best.

9. Wild Things- The most underrated and unpredictable thriller of the year. This sexy Everglade steamer had you guessing past the very end and into the credits.

8. The Mask of Zorro- An old-fashioned, heroic swashbuckler that proves you don't need fancy special effects to put out a fun action movie. The chick was gorgeous, too.

7. Twilight- A little seen dark Hollywood mystery caper with big name, old school legends Paul Newman, Susan Sarandon, and the always good Gene Hackman. Eye-catching and involving.

6. Meet Joe Black- A lavish, sweeping romantic drama that is sweet and dark at the same time. Brad Pitt and the incomparable Anthony Hopkins are an impressive team.

5. Rounders- This superslick look at the world of underground poker is so fun to watch, you don't need to know about cards. Another reason that proves Matt Damon is on his way.

4. What Dreams May Come- Visually, the most colorful and beautiful movie I've ever seen thanks to incredible special effects that only adds to an already heartwrenching love story and performance by Robin Williams.

3. The Horse Whisperer- Robert Redford's magical and gorgeous Montana-set love affair is a movie a country kid like me can love and appreciate.

Redford proves his legendary status.

2. Out of Sight- Another little seen gem where a federal marshal falls for a bank robber. George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez sizzle in movie with the same coolness and comedy of a Pulp Fiction. All-star cast of crooks and hilarious cameos galore from Michael Keaton to Samuel L. Jackson.

1. Saving Private Ryan- Simply, one of the best movies ever in every aspect, technically and dramatically. The gutsiest performance of Tom Hanks and the first half hour D-Day invasion say it all. One for all time.

Yes, I know! I'm leaving out all the popular and blockbuster movies. That's why I have an honorable mention. I can't write a ten best list without, in some way, respecting the high octane action of Armageddon, the loveliness of City of Angels, the zipper scene in There's Something About Mary, the motherly love in Hope Floats and Stepmom, the intensity of The Negotiator and Snake Eyes, and the fairy tale fantasy of Pleasantville. I also can't leave out the jive of Chris Tucker in Rush Hour, the realism of Enemy of the State, the cuteness of You've Got Mail, the incredible drama and animation of The Prince of Egypt, the sick carnage of Very Bad Things. Most especially, being the football manager here at St. Joe's, I love everything about the personally gratifying Waterboy.

Now you can see why this is a tough choice. I'll tell you one thing, though. I guarantee you will think my list is better than Siskel and Ebert's. Siskel had the ridiculous Babe: Pig in the City and Ebert had the utterly mindboggling Dark City as their #1 films of 1998. What!? Neither movie, in my opinion, is even close to being half as memorable and lasting as Saving Private Ryan. I hope all of you at least try these eleven movies out. I don't think you'll be disappointed.

As a special note to my boys in Seifert, many of these movies will be joining the frequently-visited Siefert #170 Commemorative Film Emporium very soon.

Thank you all again for reading. Next time I should have a true movie review for you; or I'll be talking about the Oscar nominations coming out February 10th. Now go down to Video Stop, where I now work, and spend that measly work study check on some of these movies today.

What do you Do?

What do you do when you're snowed in
When 16 layers of clothing seems a little thin
'Cause it just doesn't stand up to all the wind
So what do you do when you're snowed in

What do you do under 3 feet of snow
Nothing is open, there's no place to go
Besides the car's buried, that even I know
So what do you do under 3 feet of snow

What do you do with all these snow flurries
When no one's rushing or in a hurry
I know the answer to all you worries
NOTHING

Ann O'Donnel

There is no sorrow
Like the sorrow in spying
a dead Christmas tree
--stripped naked
laid bare
of all festivity.
The yard is bleaker when the snow
melts into the lawn,
And the house a bit auster
with all her trappings gone.

Christopher Lewis Gibson

One Early Winter Morning

One early winter morning the alarm clock
screamed,
"Get up, time for class, Sleepyhead!"
So I looked out the window all blurry
with frost,
Moaned and groaned and hopped back to
bed.

I drifted into dreamland, sunbathing at the
beach.
The warmth of the sun's rays filled me
with cheer.
But just as I began to lay down in the
sand,
The alarm once again pierced my ear.
I bundled myself in as many layer as I
could,
Making sure that my body wouldn't
freeze.

I put on my scarf, hat, gloves, and boots.
The snow was higher than my knees!

I started my journey to class and looked
up,
The path of snow ahead seemed nice.
I admired the way it sparkled and
gleamed,
"Till I realized the top layer was ice!

So I skated slowly to class,
And was happy for just one reason:
Even though it was hard to get out of bed,
I still loved the winter season!

Christine Scafide